

By: Representatives Clark, Barnett (92nd)

To: Game and Fish

HOUSE BILL NO. 89

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE ALL PERSONS ON BOARD WATERCRAFT TO WEAR LIFE JACKETS;  
3 TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-153, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE  
4 PENALTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 59-21-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 59-21-81. Every vessel shall have on board a Coast Guard  
9 approved personal flotation device for each person aboard such  
10 vessel, and every person \* \* \* on board a motorboat, sailboat, or  
11 vessel which measures less than twenty-six (26) feet in length  
12 shall wear a type I, II, or III Coast Guard approved personal  
13 flotation device while such motorboat, sailboat, or vessel is  
14 underway. For the purpose of this section "underway" shall mean  
15 at all times except when a motorboat, sailboat, or vessel is  
16 anchored, moored, or aground. Every vessel shall have lights  
17 during the hours of darkness, which comply with all federal  
18 regulations applicable to vessels of its classification. Such  
19 vessel shall not be operated unless in a safe and seaworthy  
20 condition; the owner and operator shall employ such safety devices  
21 as may be necessary for the safe operation of such vessel,  
22 including an efficient natural or mechanical ventilating system  
23 when necessary for safe operation. In addition to the  
24 requirements imposed by this section, all vessels shall comply  
25 with all federal regulations applicable to vessels of such  
26 classification.

27 SECTION 2. Section 59-21-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
28 amended as follows:



29           59-21-153. Any person who violates any provision of this  
30 chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be subject to the  
31 following penalties:

32           (a) For a violation of any of the provisions of  
33 Sections 59-21-23(d), 59-21-29, 59-21-33, 59-21-55, 59-21-81  
34 through 59-21-87, and 59-21-111 through 59-21-129, by a fine not  
35 to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment in the  
36 county jail not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both.

37           (b) For the violation of any provision of Section  
38 59-21-31, by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
39 (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by  
40 imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed thirty (30) days, or  
41 both.

42           (c) For the violation of any other provision of this  
43 chapter, by a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)  
44 nor more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

45           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
46 and after July 1, 2001.

